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ON CHINESE COMMUNIST DEFECTS AND THEIR CORRECTION

Ch'en Chung-Jen (陳重人)

Anybody can have defects, even those who participated in the Revolution for a very long time and experienced numerous tests and trials. Defects arise in a society of private institutions where a person becomes desirous of wealth, fame, and prosperity and therefore has to learn self-aggrandizement, selfishness, falsehood, deception, extreme cunning, and maliciousness. In such a society a person will unconsciously become imbued with such filthy thoughts even if he does not want to. He is like a man crawling through mud who does not desire any mud on himself. Now that the Revolution has been won, we should all correct our defects and continually uplift ourselves.

Some ambitious comrades desire advancement so urgently that they regard their own defects too seriously. I have seen one such comrade. Basically he was all right, but he had a desire not to lose face and self-esteem, and a strong will. During a criticism meeting, someone suggested to him that all this was an expression of petite bourgeoisie class thought consciousness. This single critical phrase made him sick for several days. Some comrades, who did not understand, said that he was not willing to receive others' opinions with an open mind and was not prepared to correct his defects. This incident made him regard petite bourgeoisie class thoughts still more seriously. To such a comrade it should be explained that having defects is not that serious and that, moreover, everyone has them and the important thing is to be able to correct them by employing every possible means. At the same time, the criticizer should be careful of his methods and should not expect too much at once. He should not employ just one tactic, but discuss the man's defects in an easy persuasive manner. He should argue tactfully and weigh his words; after bringing up the man's good points he should then mention his defects. Such a skillful technique can lead our comrade to accept criticism.

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is regarded with disrespect, then the man either will not listen or will argue. This is called fighting back. For example, one comrade said sneeringly to another: "Save your opinions; you are all wrong." Obviously this is no way to treat a fellow comrade. No comrade from the ranks of the Revolution should be sneered at or have his honest frank opinions despised.

There is no harm in listening dispassionately and with an open mind to the opinions of a comrade who himself has defects. Do not say: "The por is calling the kettle black." Having defects does not byiate the right of a comrade from the ranks of the Revolution to offer his opinion.

In summary, a man must listen dispassionately and with an open mind to the chinons expressed by others towards himself. He must not get easily irritated with their opinions, no matter how wrong he may think them to be. It is important for him to examine himself. When a person offers an opinion, he must not twist its meaning and draw bad conclusions from what are good honest opinions. To do so is of no advantage to himself.

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